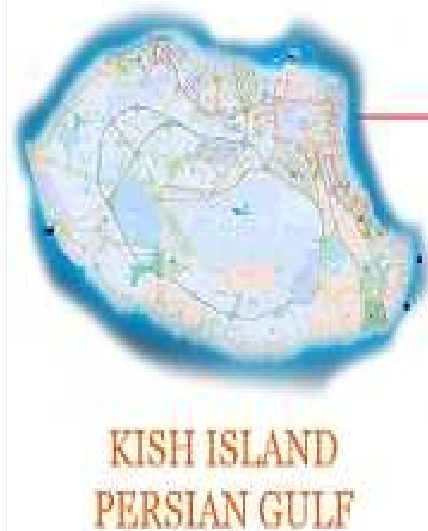


Torpedo sinuspersici Olfers, 1831



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Editor: Shahla Jamili (IFSRI)



Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Chondrichthyes

Order: Torpediniformes

Family: Torpedinidae

Genus: *Torpedo*

Species: *T. sinuspersici*

Electric rays, thought to be the most primitive of the skates and rays, have stout tails but have rather expansive disc. This group is distinguished by the presence of powerful electric organs, derived from branchial muscles in head region. *Torpedo sinuspersici* found inshore in sandy bottoms, and well offshore from the surf zone down to 200 m. Also on or near coral reefs (like **Kish Island in Persian Gulf**). Common in shallow sandy areas. Occasionally hooked by anglers, more often seen by divers; can deliver a strong shock. Flesh is edible. *T. sinuspersici* can survive for hours after being stranded on the beach. Little is known of the life history of the Gulf torpedo. It is a sluggish predator of bony fishes. At night it actively hunts for food, sculling slowly through the water about a meter above the bottom; during the day it usually rests on the bottom and opportunistically ambushes unwary prey. It uses its broad pectoral fins to envelop the target fish before delivering an electric shock to stun it. Usually solitary, they may form groups during the mating season. Reproduction is a placental viviparous, with the developing embryos initially surviving on their yolk sacs, and then on enriched uterine fluid produced by the mother. Litters of 9-22 young are birthed in the summer. Newborns measure about 10 cm wide; males mature at a disc width of 39 cm and females at 45 cm.

Food: *T. sinuspersici* feeds on bony fishes.

Habitat: The Gulf torpedo is the most widespread of the electric rays in the western Indian Ocean, with a patchy range extending to South Africa, Somalia, the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea, the **Persian Gulf**, Sri Lanka, and the Andaman Sea. There are also less reliable reports of it occurring elsewhere, including Madagascar, the Seychelles, and the Laccadive Islands. It is found in shallow waters in sandy areas, on and near coral reefs, and offshore to a depth of 200 meters. It often buries itself in the sandy bottom of gullies and estuaries.